

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 10808 151435 Z

53

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-14 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 IO-03 DPW-01

AID-10 RSR-01 /070 W

----- 099604

P 151239 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3270

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10808

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR JUNE 15, 1973

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO JUNE 15 TH,
1973 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 457

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR JUNE 15, 1973

LIMDIS

SUMMARY: MR IV REPORTED 81 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS JUNE 14
AND CLAIMED A VERY LARGE NUMBER OF VC/ NVA CASUALTIES. DELTA
COMMANDERS BELIEVE THE VC/ NVA WILL PRESS THEIR OFFENSIVE
OPERATIONS DESPITE CEASEFIRE II. THE CHAU DOC PROVINCE
CHIEF IS DISARMING HOA HAO GROUPS ENGAGED IN BORDER
TRAFFICKING. THE 1 ST NVA DIVISION COMMANDER MAY HAVE BEEN
RECENTLY RELIEVED AND DEMOTED. END SUMMARY.

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) MR IV, WHICH TODAY ON ORDERS
FROM THE JGS READMITTED CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICERS TO ITS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 10808 151435 Z

DAILY BRIEFINGS, REPORTED 81 VC/ NVA CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS JUNE 14, COMPARED TO 44 THE PREVIOUS DAY. AMONG THESE WERE EIGHT GROUND ASSAULTS, 51 ATTACKS BY FIRE, 21 HARASSMENTS, AND ONE TERRORIST ACT IN WHICH A BOMB EXPLODED IN A KIEN PHONG MARKET PLACE. DINH TUONG RECEIVED FIVE GROUND ATTACKS AND CHUONG THIEN TOOK A MAJORITY OF THE ABF' S, MANY OF WHICH COMPRISED 8-10 MORTAR ROUNDS EACH.

(B) ANTICIPATING CEASEFIRE II, MR IV CONDUCTED A LARGE NUMBER OF SPOILING " SECURITY OPERATIONS" JUNE 14 AND MORE ARE PLANNED TODAY. THE HEAVIEST FIGHTING OCCURRED IN CHUONG THIEN, SOUTH OF VI THANH. ACCORDING TO MR IV COMMANDER MGEN NGUYEN VINH NGHI, IN ONE ENGAGEMENT 15 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF VI THANH, THE 1 ST BATTALION OF THE 21 ST ARVN DIVISION' S 31 ST REGIMENT REPULSED AN ASSAULT BY THE NVA 95 A REGIMENT, INFLECTING SOME 70 CASUALTIES UPON THE ATTACKERS. THIS ENGAGEMENT, AND THE NUMEROUS SECURITY OPERATIONS THAT MR IV MOUNTED, NO DOUBT ACCOUNT FOR THE DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF ARVN- CLAIMED CASUALTIES IN THE DELTA JUNE 14; NINE RVNAF KILLED AND 122 WOUNDED, AGAIN ELST 134 VC/ NVA KILLED AND TWO CAPTURED.

(C) REACTIONS TO CEASEFIRE II: SENIOR VIETNAMESE MILITARY OFFICERS IN MR IV ARE REACTING CALMLY TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF CEASEFIRE II AND PREDICT BUSINESS AS USUAL. THE MR IV G-2, IN HIS MONTHLY FORECAST, PREDICTS A CONTINUED VC/ NVA DRIVE C AYE TRADITIONAL CENTERS OF DELTA ACTIVITY. 7 TH ARVN DIVISION COMMANDER MGEN NGUYEN KHOA NAM REPORTED JUNE 14 THAT VC/ NVA INFILTRATION OF MEN AND MATERIAL INTO HIS TAOR WILL CONTINUE FROM CAMBODIA. BGEN LE VAN HUNG, 21 ST DIVISION COMMANDER, STATED THE SAME DAY HE ANTICIPATES FURTHER VC/ NVA OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN CHUONG THIEN. REFERRING TO THE STRICTURES OF CEASEFIRE II, BGEN NGUYEN THANH HOANG, ACTING MR IV DEPUTY COMMANDER, COMMENTED THAT " THE GVN' S HANDS WILL BE TIED BEHIND ITS BWXK. THE VC WILL BE FREE TO USE TWO HANDS." HOANG' S PESSIMISTIC ASSESSMENT REFLECTS THE MAJORITY OF LOCAL MILITARY OPINION.

2. GVN ACTIVITIES: DISARMING THE HOA HAO: MGEN NGHI INFORMED THE CONSUL GENERAL JUNE 14 THAT CHAU DOC PROVINCE CHIEF COL NGUYEN DANG PHUONG HAD ORDERED HIS FORCES ALONG THE CAMBODIAN BORDER TO DISARM HOA HAO GROUPS ENGAGED IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 10808 151435 Z

BORDER TRAFFICKING. WITHOUT GIVING NUMBERS, NGHI NOTED THAT THE PROBLEM WAS A MAJOR ONE. PHUONG, HIMSELF A HOA HAO, FEARS HOA HAO LEADERS WILL CRITICIZE HIM FOR TURNING AGAINST HIS CORELIGIONISTS. NGHI TOLD HIM NOT TO WORRY AND TO DO HIS JOB AS AN " OFFICER OF THE VIETNAMESE ARMY AND PROVINCE CHIEF," LEAVING THE HOA HAO LEADERSHIP FOR NGHI TO HANDLE. THE DISARMING IS CONTINUING.

3. VC/NVA ACTIVITY: THE CHAU DOC VICE CONSUL HAS
LEARNED FROM A RELIABLE LOCAL SOURCE THAT THE 1 ST NVA
DIVISION COMMANDER WAS RECENTLY RELIEVED AND DEMOTED.
ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF THE
CHANGE, THE REPORT SHOULD NOT BE DISCOUNTED. T3 1 ST NVA
HAS FOUGHT POORLY SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. IT HAS RETREATED
FROM KIEN GIANG PROVINCE, FAILED TO CLIMB DOWN FROM
ITS PERCHES ON THE SEVEN MOUNTAIN SLOPES, AND DECLINED TO PROBE IN
SUFFICIENT STRENGTH ACROSS THE BORDER TO DIVERT ARVN
UNITS FROM THE HONG NGU OR OTHER CAMPAIGN AREAS. THE
OPPOSITE FREQUENTLY HAS BEEN THE CASE IN TAKING ADVANTAGE
OF THE 1 ST'S PASSIVITY, MR IV HAS SUCCEEDED IN REDEPLOYING
RANGER UNITS, NORMALLY ASSIGNED TO FACE THE 1 ST NVA, TO
OTHER MORE SENSITIVE AREAS. MR IV HEADQUARTERS HAS
PREDICTED FOR SOME TIME RENEWED 1 ST DIVISION OPERATIONS
ALONG THE CHAU DOC AND KIEN GIANG BORDERS. WITH THE
ASSIGNMENT OF A NEW COMMANDER, THE DIVISION COULD PLAY
A MORE AGGRESSIVE ROLE.
BARNES UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON10808
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730619/aaaajalh.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <16-Oct-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980206
Subject: SITREP FOR JUNE 15, 1973
TAGS: MOPS, VS
To: EA
JEC PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005